PRELIMINARY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Plentywater Creek Project

Environmental Assessment Number OR-086-01-01

INTRODUCTION

The BLM (Bureau of Land Management) has conducted an environmental analysis (Environmental Assessment Number OR-086-01-01) for a proposal to perform multiple Commercial Thinning and Regeneration Harvest projects on a total of approximately 544 acres of Matrix and Density Management on approximately 37 acres of RR (Riparian Reserves) land use allocations comprised of young densely stocked conifer stands dominated by Douglas-fir aged 40 – 60 years. In addition to the forest management activities, the proposal includes; 1/ Wildlife Habitat enhancement on approximately 80 acres of Matrix and RR; 2/ Fish Habitat Enhancement on approximately 2000 feet of stream; 3/ Campground Restoration to restore natural flood plain function by decompacting and planting an abandoned campground; and 4/ Stabilize a road that was damaged in the 1996 floods if alternate access can be acquired, or repair it if alternate access cannot be acquired. **MULTIPLE FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE ISSUED BASED ON THIS FONSI (FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT)**. The project area is located approximately 12 miles north of Hillsboro and Forest Grove, Oregon, in Washington and Multnomah Counties on forested lands managed by the Tillamook Field Office, Salem District, BLM (See Figure 1). The project area lies within the Dairy-McKay Creek and Rock Creek watersheds, both tributaries to the Tualatin River. Forest Management projects are proposed in Township 2 North, Range 2 West, sections 7, 15, 17, 21; Township 2 North, Range 3 West, sections 3, 6; and Township 3 North, Range 3 West, sections 21, 27, 29, and 33. The proposed fish habitat enhancement and campground restoration would occur along Dairy Creek within Township 3 North, Range 3 West, section 21, Willamette Meridian. The proposed wildlife habitat enhancement project would occur in Township 3 North, Range 3 West, section 29; Township 3 North, Range 3 West, section 33; and Township 2 North, Range 3 West, section 3, Willamette Meridian.

Implementation of the proposed actions would conform to management actions and direction contained in the ROD/RMP (*Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*), dated May 1995, which is tiered to and incorporates the analysis contained in the RMP/FEIS (*Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan /Final Environmental Impact Statement*), dated September 1994. The ROD/RMP provides a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994) and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the*

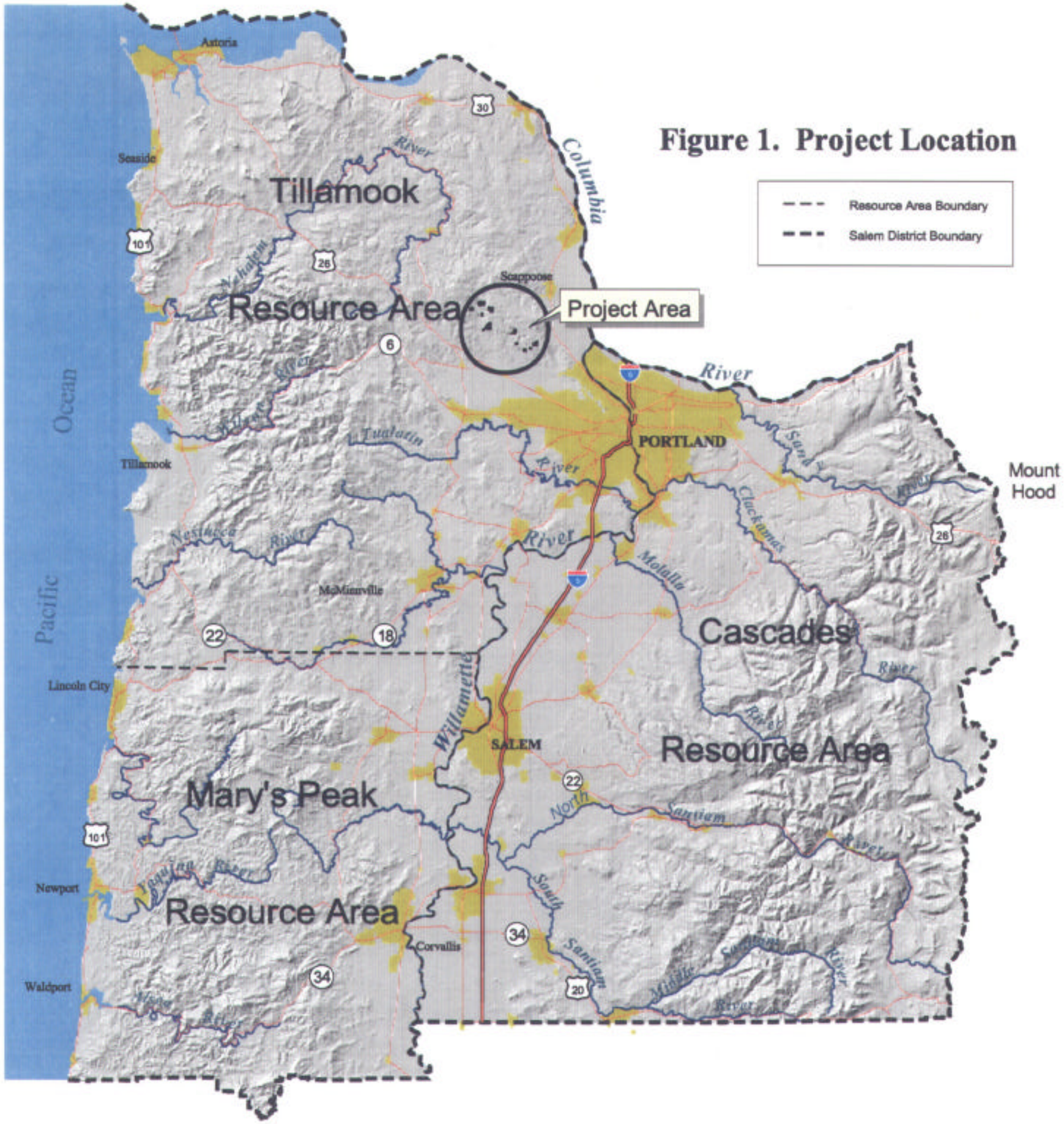
Figure 1. Project Location
Resource Area Boundary
Salem District Boundary
Project Area
Tillamook
Resource Area
Cascades
Resource Area
Mary's Peak
Resource Area
PORTLAND
SALEM
Astoria
Seaside
Tillamook
Scappoose
McMinnville
Lincoln City
Newport
Waldport
Corvallis
Ocean
Pacific
Columbia
Willamette
Mount Hood
Area of Map
OREGON
N
5 0 5 10 15 Miles
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District
2000
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.

Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994). The proposed action would also conform to the management direction provided in the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2001).

The EA (environmental assessment) is attached to and incorporated by reference in this preliminary FONSI determination. *The EA and FONSI will be made available for public review from* ***February 15, 2002 to March 18, 2002.***

The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice by local newspapers of general circulation (*Hillsboro Argus* and *Tillamook Headlight Herald*) during the week of February 11, 2001; and sent to those individuals, organizations, and agencies that have requested to be involved in the environmental planning and decision making processes. Comments received in the Tillamook Field Office , 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141-0161, **on or before March 18, 2002 at 4:00 PM, Pacific Standard Time**, will be considered in making the final decisions for these projects. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., closed on holidays.

Based upon the EA and supporting documents, the deciding official, Dana R. Shuford, Field Manager of the Tillamook Resource Area, made a preliminary determination that Alternative 2 would be implemented as two separate timber treatment actions and one group of restoration projects. The timber treatment actions will be modified as follows:

Timber Treatment Action 1 (Jack Pumpkin TS): Timber harvest Units 3-1a, 27-1, 21-2, 15-1, will be implemented so that all of the project design features specified in Chapter 2 of the EA are implemented, along with some of the additional mitigation measures specified in EA Chapter 3.8, specifically:

> 1/ Include Chapter 3.8.1 Measure 1 for units 3-1a, 21-2 and 15-1. Specifically, place boulders, logs, logging slash, or berms of soil to discourage OHV activity. Current OHV designations contained within the Salem District RMP will remain in effect.
>
> 2/ Include Chapter 3.8.1 Measure 4 for Unit 21-2 which is to "Place a short windrow or low berm of soil/ unmerchantable logs/ slash across a small swale along the southern property boundary of Unit 21-2. Restrict ground-based equipment from 75 feet of the small swale along the southern boundary." This measure is expected to alleviate some concerns raised by adjacent land owners, within the Rural Interface Area, during the scoping process.

These units comprising Timber Treatment Action 1 demonstrate a "No Effect" ESA call for fish resources. No consultation is required with National Marine Fisheries Service, and can therefore proceed to be offered for sale in Fiscal Year 2003. Project specific consultation will be conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This project will be implemented using dry season operations only, which will result in the determination of "No Effect," for ESA listed Fish species. Road maintenance activities such as spot rocking and sediment traps/filters in ditch lines will be used to the greatest extent practicable.

Timber Treatment Action 2 (Suficiente Agua TS): Timber harvest units 3-1b, 3-2, 3-3, 21-1, 29-1, 9-1, 33-1, 7-1, 17-1, 21-3 will be implemented so that all of the project design features specified in Chapter 2 of the EA will be implemented, along with some of the additional mitigation measures specified in EA Chapter 3.8.1, specifically:

1/ Include Measure 1 for units 3-1b, 3-3 21-1, 9-1 and 21-3. Specifically, place boulders, logs, logging slash, or berms of soil to discourage OHV activity. Current OHV designations contained within the Salem District RMP will remain in effect.

2/ Include Measure 3 for Unit 17-1, "Any additional fill material in ditch along the 2N-2-18 road as a result of forest practices should be removed prior to fall rains when water can collect in the ditch." This is intended to reduce potential sediment transport in the ditch line along BLM road 2N-2-18.

In addition, if BLM is unable to acquire alternate access to Unit 33-1, BLM road 3N-3-33 will be repaired as a portion of the timber treatment action.

Also, dry season hauling will be employed in the harvest of unit 17-1 and 21-1. Dry season hauling will be implemented in the remaining "Suficiente Agua" harvest units to the greatest extent possible.

These units comprising Timber Treatment Action 2, Units 3-1b, 3-2, 3-3, 21-1, 21-3, 29-1, 9-1, 33-1, 7-1, 17-1, are the units considered for treatment under Alternative 2 of the EA which result in an ESA call for the Fish Resources of "**May Affect, Not likely to Adversely Affect**" and "**May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect**." Inclusion of Units 9-1 and 21-3 would likely require project specific ESA consultation for Wildlife Resources. Timber Treatment action 2 would be expected to be offered for sale in Fiscal Year 2005.

Watershed Restoration on Matrix and Riparian Reserve lands

All of the restoration actions described in Chapter 2 of the EA would be implemented as described in the EA. If BLM cannot acquire alternate access to Unit 33-1, the Road Stabilization project will not be implemented because BLM road 3N-3-33 will be repaired under Timber Treatment Action 1. If alternate access can be secured and this road is not repaired, the road will be stabilized as the proposed action describes.

Design features for the selected alternative are specified below and can be found (except where above specified) on pages 12 - 19 of the Plentywater Creek Project EA.
All of the action alternatives would implement the appropriate BMPs (Best Management

Practices) which, which are listed below, and are contained in Appendix C1 through C11 of the RMP as amended. Additional project specific design features follow the RMP BMPs.

Timber harvest BMPs for cable yarding areas are:

1. On areas with high water tables, yard with full suspension or with one-end suspension on seasonally dry soils. On areas with slopes exceeding 65 percent, yard with full suspension, one-end suspension using seasonal restrictions, or one-end suspension using a standing skyline with lateral yarding capacity. Yard remaining areas using one-end suspension.
2. Pile yarding debris on the landing to minimize the acreage around the landing impacted by intense burns or obstructed by heavy slash concentrations.
3. Hand water bar cable yarding corridors immediately after use on sensitive soils where gouging occurs.
4. When absolutely necessary to yard through riparian areas, restrict yarding in riparian areas to corridors that are perpendicular to streams. Management guidelines for corridors are:
    a. Restrict corridors to the minimum number feasible.
    b. Corridors will not exceed 50 feet in width nor reduce crown cover on a project stream segment to less than 75 percent of predisturbance conditions.
    c. Logs will be fully suspended over water and adjacent banks.

Timber harvest BMPs for ground based yarding areas are:

1. Use existing skid roads wherever possible.
2. Limit new skid roads to slopes less than 35 percent.
3. Use designated skid roads to limit areal extent of skid roads plus landings to less than 10 percent of the unit.
4. Restrict tractor operations to designated roads and limit operations to periods of low soil moisture, when soils have the most resistance to compaction (dry season).
5. In partial cut areas, locate skid roads were they can be used for regeneration harvest.
6. Till compacted roads, including skid roads from previous entries, with a properly designed self-drafting winged subsoiler.
7. Avoid tractor yarding on areas where soil damage cannot be mitigated.
8. Avoid placement of skid roads through areas of high water tables or where the skid roads would channel water into unstable headwall areas.
9. Water bar skid roads whenever surface erosion is likely.
10. Avoid use of wide track vehicles or more than one machine on a skid road at any given time to minimize the width of the skid roads. On multiple pass skid roads, wide track vehicles create in wider skid roads, and after multiple passes, drive the compaction deeper than a regular width track. However, they are good for one pass operations such as incidental scattered salvage or site preparation.
11. If timber harvesting activities will produce slash that covers the existing skid roads so they cannot be relocated, till prior to felling timber with a properly designed winged subsoiler.

The proposed action is comprised of two separate groups of projects, Group 2.3.2.1 Forest Management on Matrix and RR lands and Group 2.3.2.2 Watershed Restoration projects on Matrix and RR lands.

2.3.2.1 Forest Management in Matrix and RR lands

The proposed action is to implement several timber sales using combinations of commercial thinning and regeneration harvest prescriptions. Appendix 1 "Silvicultural Prescription," contains specific information about the proposed stand treatments and site preparation including the use of fire. It would include timber harvest on approximately 544 acres within the Matrix land use allocation, and approximately 37 acres of thinning within the RR land use allocation. Approximately 210 acres of the harvest would be accomplished by utilizing cable logging systems and 335 acres would be accomplished utilizing ground-based systems. The units and logging systems described within the Proposed Action are depicted on Figure 2 – "Map of Units and Logging Systems for Alternative 2." Regeneration harvest prescriptions would be applied where there is a high incidence of PW (*Phellinus weirii*), hardwoods, or low density stocking of conifer species. Commercial thinning would be applied where conifer growth and/or wildlife habitat value could be enhanced by the treatment. The regeneration areas would be reforested using an appropriate mix of native conifer species and/or hardwoods for the site. The projects are expected to be implemented (sold) during FY 2003 through 2005 and result in the production of an estimated 8 ***MMBF*** (million board feet) of commercial timber products (see Table 1).

As proposed, specific design features, in addition to those specified in the BMPs listed in the EA under section 2.3, of the project would help meet the management objectives contained within the RMP and are in compliance with the standards and guidelines contained within the Northwest Forest Plan. These design features are as follows:

Common to all units:

1. Following harvest, all skid trails within the regeneration harvest units which are determined by the hydrologist to be affecting the hydrologic function of the watershed would be decommissioned by decompacting the trail surface (subsoiling) and if needed, water-barring and blocking to vehicular traffic.
2. Within the thinning units skid trails would not be subsoiled to avoid damaging the roots of reserve trees however if necessary, they may be blocked and/or water-barred.
3. Ground based equipment would not be allowed within RR except where they are able to operate from existing permanent roads located within the RR.
4. Depending on the individual site specific fuels prescription, property boundaries, RR, sensitive sites containing Special Status or Survey and Manage vascular plant, fungi or mollusks, and green retention tree clumps greater than 1 acre in size would be fire trailed for maximum protection from ground fire.

Unit 27-1

1. Where cable corridors pass through the RR area, corridor width would be limited to 12 feet.

2. Where it is necessary to yard across Plentywater Creek and through the RR, full suspension would be required over Plentywater Creek and the adjacent 50 foot Ano cut@ buffers on each side of Plentywater Creek.
3. The trees which would be cut for cable corridor construction within the 50 foot Ano cut@ buffers would be felled into Plentywater Creek (if possible) to supplement LWD (Large Woody Debris). If the they cannot be felled directly into Plentywater Creek, they would be maintained on-site as CWD (Coarse Woody Debris).

Unit 21-2, 21-3 and 15-1 (Rural Interface areas)

1. A visual buffer 50 - 75 feet in width would be retained where Solberger Road passes through Unit 21-2.
2. Scotch broom would be cut and/or pulled one year prior to commencement of harvest activity. Following completion of harvest for a period of three to five years reduce seed production and spread by cutting and/or hand pulling all mature plants having the ability to reproduce.
3. Infestations of English Ivy would be treated to eliminate or reduce their presence. Treatment would consist of cutting and/or hand pulling ground cover for a minimum of one year prior to commencement of harvest activity. Following completion of harvest for a period of three to five years reduce seed production and spread by cutting and/or hand pulling all mature plants having the ability to reproduce.
4. The use of compression brakes would be prohibited.
5. The tall bugbane (*Cimicifuga elata*) site would be protected with a 50 foot buffer.

Unit 17-1

1. Areas gouged on erosion prone steep slopes would be hand water barred.
2. The unstable area in the northwest corner of the unit would not be logged.
3. Waddles would be placed in the swale above the ditch adjacent to BLM road 2N-2-18.
4. The spur road intersecting BLM road 2N-2-18 would be used and decommissioned in one season. Spur decommissioning would include slope recontouring of the road segment located within the RR.

Figure 2. Plentywater Project Alternative 2

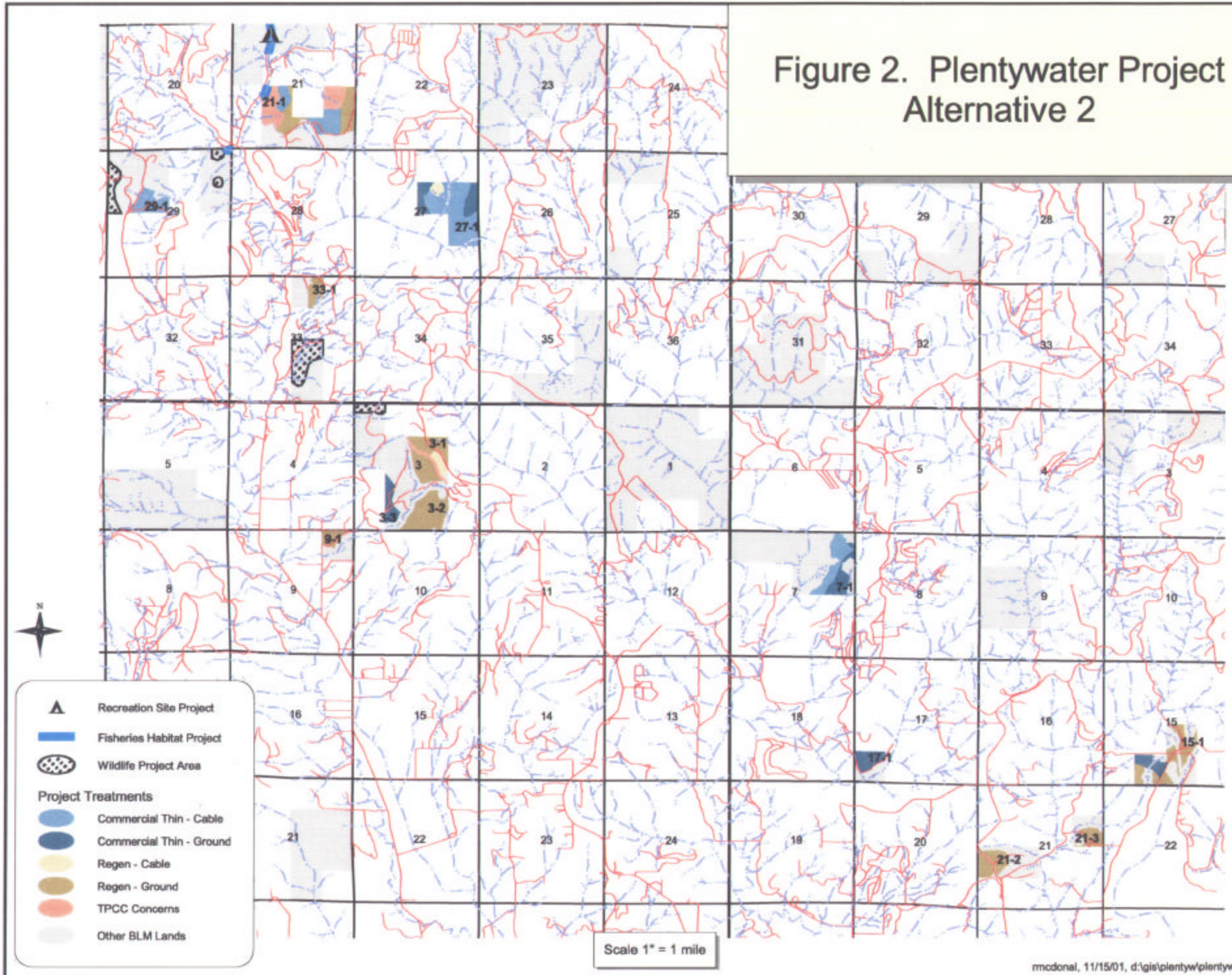

Table 1. Harvest Unit Information. This table summarizes the harvest unit information for the Proposed Action. Stand information and harvest volumes are estimates based on preliminary unit examination.

HARVEST UNIT(s)	ACRES (Approx.)	LOGGING METHOD	ESTIMATED HARVEST VOLUME (board feet)	Treatment Prescription Type
3-1, 3-2, 9-1, 21-1, 27-1, 21-2, 21-3, 15-1, 33-1	225	Ground Based	3,795	Regeneration
3-3, 21-1, 27-1, 17-1, 15-1	110	Ground Based	1,270	Commercial Thinning
3-1, 27-1	16	Cable	225	Regeneration
21-1, 27-1, 29-1, 7-1,	193	Cable	2,670	Commercial Thinning
Totals	544		8 MMBF*	

*Rounded to nearest million

Road Management:

The proposed action would involve approximately 9,700 feet of ***road construction*** of which approximately 5,000 feet would be rocked and considered to be ***permanent***; the remainder would be considered ***semi-permanent***. The project also involves the ***reconstruction*** of an additional 3,500 feet of existing natural surface road; and decommissioning of approximately 15,400 feet of semi-permanent and existing permanent roads (see Table 2) and the removal of one culvert. In addition the project would result in the designation/construction of approximately 108,900 feet of skid trails. Approximately 70,940 feet of skid trail along with all landings would be sub-soiled in the regeneration harvest areas.

Table 2. Road Summary - Proposed Action. Approximate amount (linear feet) of new road construction, reconstruction of existing roads and road decommissioning which would result from implementing Alternative 2 - Proposed Action.

Proposed Action	Reconst.	Maint.	*New Temp (**semi-perm)	*New Perm.	Mitigation Measures	*Decom-mission	*Net
T2N R2W, Section 21	0	800	300	0	Subsoil, waterbar, block and plant road.	1100	-800
T2N R2W sec. 17	500	2000	0	0	Subsoil, waterbar and block road	500	-500
T2N R2W sec. 15	0	0	1400	0	Subsoil, waterbar, block and plant road	2800	-1400
T2N R2W sec. 7	0	2000	0	3000		0	+3000
T3N R3W sec. 29	0	6000	0	0	Subsoil, waterbar, block and plant road	500	-500
T3N R3W sec. 21	0	7000	2000	0	Subsoil, waterbar, block and plant road	2000	0
T3N R3W sec. 27	0	2000	0	2000		0	+2000
T3N R3W sec. 33* **	0	7500	0	0		0	0
T2N R3W sec. 3 & 9	3000	6500	1000	0	Subsoil, waterbar, block and plant road	8500	-7500
TOTAL	**3,500**	**33,800**	**4,700**	**5,000**		**15,400**	**-5,700**

* New Temp. + New Perm. - Decommission = Net.
** Semi-permanent roads that may be used for longer than one dry season but are decommissioned by the end on the contract.
*** This value may vary pending on resolution of access as previously specified.

2.3.2.2 Watershed Restoration Projects on Matrix and RR Lands

It is expected that these projects would be implemented within 5 years from the effective date of the decision(s).

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement:

Five treatment units totaling approximately 80 acres (Three treatment units within T.3N., R.3W., Sec. 29 which are approximately 19, 5 and 3 acres in size; One treatment unit within T.3N., R.3W., Sec. 33 which is approximately 40 acres in size; and one treatment unit within T.2N., R.3W., Sec. 3 which is approximately 12 acre is size).
The design criteria used for analysis for the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement projects are as follows:

1. In the treatment area in the W **2** of the NW 1/4 of T3N., R 3W., section 29 which is approximately 19 acres in size, up to approximately two to three snags or snag top trees would be created per acre and up to two trees would be felled per acre. Snags, snag top trees and/or trees felled for CWD would be placed throughout the identified project area, individually and in small clumps. Only healthy Douglas fir would be treated. A number of factors would be considered in selecting trees for treatment in order to maximize the potential benefits to wildlife. If trees are selected for top girdling, they would generally have a live crown greater than 30% and be located adjacent to small openings; this reduced competition would increase the likelihood of the trees**:** continued survival. Trees dropped for CWD or killed for the creation of a snag would be selected to release individual or groups trees, either in the canopy or in the understory. The project would be implemented after August 5th but prior to March 1st. All work involving the generation of noise above the ambient level or climbing into the canopy above 25 feet which is conducted between August 6th and September 15 would not begin until 2 hours after sunrise and would halt two hours before sunset.
2. In the two treatment areas in the E **2** of the NE 1/4 of T3N., R 3W., section 29 which are approximately 3 and 5 acres in size, one clump of 2 - 5 snags per acre would be created. Only healthy Douglas fir would be treated by basal girdling. Snag clumps would be created to release existing understory regeneration and/or selected overstory trees where it is possible.
3. In the treatment area in the N **2** of the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of T3N., R 3W., section 33 which is approximately 40 acres in size, small clumps of overstory alders (up to approximately 8 to 12 trees) would be felled or girdled to release existing understory conifer regeneration and/or overstory conifers. Some underplanting of shade tolerant conifers within openings may occur depending upon site specific conditions. Up to approximately 5 clumps of alders per acre would be treated which would not be expected to reduce the existing total overstory by more than approximately 10%. Distribution of these groups of treated hardwoods would be dependent upon the distribution of existing conifers. Alders which would be expected to be appreciably contributing to stream shading would not be treated.
4. In the treatment area in the N **2** of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of T2N., R 3W., section 3 which is approximately 12 acres in size, small clumps of overstory alders (up to approximately 8 to 12 trees) would be felled or girdled to release existing understory conifer regeneration and/or overstory conifers. Up to an average of approximately 3 clumps of alders per acre would be treated which would not be expected to reduce the existing total overstory by more than approximately 5%. Distribution of these groups of treated hardwoods would be dependent upon the distribution of confers. Alders which would be expected to appreciably contribute to stream shading would not be treated.
5. No trees with an obvious nest or trees adjacent to any tree with an obvious nest would be selected for treatment. No trees with characteristics desirable to wildlife such as hollow cavities would be treated. No trees would be treated within approximately 100 feet of a permanent road open for public use.
6. A Botanist and/or a Wildlife Biologist would be involved in selecting all trees to be felled

in order to minimize the potential for adverse impacts.

7. Trees to be felled would be selected and felled in such a way as to avoid impacting existing decay class 3, 4 and 5 down woody debris which is grater than 15 inches in diameter.
8. Occasionally, alder may be felled into the stream if they can be selected as to not impact stream shading. Any felling of trees into the stream channel would occur between July 1 and September 30 to be consistent with AOregon guidelines for Timing of InBWater Work to Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources@ (June 2000), unless a waiver is obtained from ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Fish Habitat Enhancement project:

Fisheries habitat enhancement projects would be conducted in up to a total of 2,000 feet of stream located in one segment within T.3N., R.3W., Section 21.

Fisheries habitat improvement projects would be conducted in a manner which is consistent with the BMPs listed in the RMP (Appendix C-9). The appropriate BMPs along with additional project specific design features are:

1. Approximately 40 pieces (40 pieces X 40 ft. piece length = 1,600 lineal feet) of LWD would be placed in approximately 2000 feet of stream reaches within the Upper Diary Creek drainage.
2. Conduct in-stream work between July 1 and September 30, the time period with the least impact to fish. These dates meet ODFW AOregon Guidelines for Timing on In-Water Work to Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources@ (June 2000).
3. Wood for in-stream placement would generally not be acquired from the riparian areas adjacent to stream projects. An area approximately 1.5 acres in size in Section 3, T.2N. R3W., WM has been selected for the log source area.
4. All exposed soils would be stabilized and seeded or planted with native species upon completion of activities.
5. Disturbed sites that could potentially lead to sediment input would be rehabilitated to help minimize adverse effects to water quality.
6. Plant shade tolerant conifers in areas where light levels are sufficient to support rapid growth.
7. All equipment intended for instream work would be cleaned of grease, oil and dirt before movement into project area and check regularly for leaks while in operation.
8. Oil collection booms would be placed downstream of project areas and an approved spill clean up kit would be kept on site.
9. All machinery would be fueled outside of the riparian zone on hardened surfaces (roads and pullouts).

Campground Restoration:

1. Soil would be decompacted during optimal moisture conditions, as determined by the

Authorized Officer and Field Office soil scientist. Decompacting would be accomplished by breaking up the soil with a toothed bucket equipped excavator.

2. Following decompacting, the area would be blocked to prevent vehicle access and planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species.

Road Stabilization:

BLM road number 3N-3-33 was damaged in the 1996 floods and requires stabilization work. A site stabilization plan would be developed prior to implementation which would likely include planting native trees and shrubs and constructing check dams. If alternate access cannot be acquired to access section 3N-3-33.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

This action, hereafter referred to as the "Proposed Action," is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following discussion:

Context. The proposed action is a site-specific action directly involving approximately 661 acres of BLM administered forest land (including road maintenance, construction and decommissioning), an approximately 2000 foot segment of BLM administered stream, one abandoned recreation area and 700 feet of BLM administered road that by itself does not have international, national, region-wide, or state-wide importance. The project area falls within designated critical habitat of the upper Willamette steelhead and upper Willamette chinook salmon[1], both of which are listed as federally threatened under the ESA (Endangered Species Act). The discussion of the significance criteria that follows applies to the intended action and is within the context of local importance. Chapter 3 of the EA and the associated appendices detail the effects of the proposed action. None of the effects identified, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects, are considered to be significant and do not exceed those effects described in the RMP/FEIS.

Intensity. The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27.

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** Due to the proposed action=s design features, the predicted effects, most noteworthy, include: 1/ Regeneration harvest would retain 6-8 of the largest trees available and 240 lineal feet of down wood on site; 2/ Commercial thinning would increase residual stand growth and enhance timber production of the watershed; 3/ thinning 37 acres of RR would help enhance of the overall level of diversity in the area; 4/ improvement of fish habitat quality in

[1] The Upper Willamette chinook salmon is not known to have inhabited the Dairy-McKay Creek watershed currently or historically.

approximately 2000 feet of stream; 5/improve social and economic benefits to the local communities through the supply of approximately eight million board feet of timber to local mills and some contract work associated with road decommissioning; 6/ restoration and maintenance of the ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) objectives; 7/ soil disturbance and compaction, and loss in soil productivity of about 12 acres over the total treatment area; and 8/ no loss in population viability of special status or special attention species (also see significance criteria #9 below).

None of the environmental effects disclosed above and discussed in detail in Chapter 3 of the EA and associated appendices are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the RMP/FEIS.

2. **The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** Public health and safety were not identified as an issue. The proposed action is comparable to other forest management, wildlife habitat enhancement, fish habitat enhancement, soil restoration and road stabilization projects which have occurred within the Salem District with no unusual health or safety concerns.

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas**. There are no historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wild and scenic rivers, or wildernesses located within the project area (EA, Appendix 3).

   The project area is located within the Matrix and RR land use allocations, as identified in the RMP. The project area also falls within designated critical habitat of two fish species, as previously stated. Activities associated with the proposed action are predicted to accelerate the development of some late-successional forest structural features in Riparian Reserves, and will contribute to the attainment of ACS objectives. Additionally, Timber Treatment Action 1 (Jack Pumpkin) was determined to be "No Effect" for the upper Willamette steelhead and the designated critical habitat for both the upper Willamette steelhead and upper Willamette chinook salmon. (EA Chapter 3). Timber Treatment Action 2 (Suficiente Agua) was determined to be "*May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect@* and "*May Affect Likely to Adversely Affect*" the upper Willamette steelhead and the designated critical habitat for the upper Willamette steelhead.

4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** Extensive scoping of the proposed action resulted in 10 comment letters. The disposition of those comments is contained in Appendix 2 of the EA.

   The effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment were adequately understood by the interdisciplinary team to provide an environmental analysis. A complete disclosure of the predicted effects of the proposed action is contained in

Chapter 3 of the EA and associated appendices.

5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The proposed action is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas and have found effects to be reasonably predictable. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment which are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The proposed action does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. The proposed action treats approximately 544 acres of Matrix and Density Management on approximately 37 acres of RR land use allocations comprised of young densely stocked conifer stands dominated by Douglas-fir aged 40 – 60 years (including associated road management). In addition to the forest management activities, the proposal includes; 1/ Wildlife Habitat enhancement on approximately 80 acres of Matrix and RR; 2/ Fish Habitat Enhancement on approximately one mile of stream; 3/ Campground Restoration to restore natural flood plain function by decompacting and planting an abandoned campground; and 4/ Stabilize a road that was damaged in the 1996 floods if alternate access can be acquired. Any additional future projects will be evaluated through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process and will stand on their own as to their environmental effects.

7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the proposed action in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the selected alternative is contained in Chapter 3 of the EA and the associated appendices.

8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The proposed action will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will the proposed action cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, Appendix 3).

9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.** Regarding ESA Section 7 consultation with the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service); 1/ "Jack Pumpkin" received a "*No Effect*" call for the upper Willamette steelhead and the designated critical habitat for both the upper Willamette steelhead and upper Willamette chinook salmon, therefore no consultation is required; 2/ Timber Treatment Action 2 received findings of "*May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely*

the designated critical habitat for both the upper Willamette steelhead (Chapter 3). "Suficiente Agua" will require ESA consultation with NMFS and will not be implemented until such time that a Biological Opinion has been issued. The Restoration Projects will be covered under programmatic consultation.

Section 7 consultation with USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service) regarding potential impacts upon the northern spotted owl, bald eagle and marbled murrelet will be completed prior to project implementation. It is expected that the design features of the "Jack Pumpkin" timber sale will be consistent with the 2003 B.O. (Biological Opinion) so as to allow programmatic consultation. In the event that "Jack Pumpkin" is not consistent with the requirements of the B.O., project specific consultation would be initiated. Consultation for "Suficiente Agua" will occur prior to project implementation. If "Suficiente Aqua" is not consistent with the applicable programmatic B.O., project specific consultation would be initiated. No action will be implemented in either timber treatment project or the restoration projects until the appropriate consultation has been completed. When implemented, the design features of the proposed action will be consistent with the Terms and Conditions of USFWS' Biological Opinion when it is issued. See Appendix 10 of the EA for the details of the ESA effect findings for the spotted owl, bald eagle and marbled murrelet.

ESA calls specific to each Watershed Restoration project can be found in the EA and associated appendices as well.

10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.** The proposed action does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. The EA and supporting Project Record contain discussions pertaining to the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) and Executive Order 13212 (Presidents National Energy Policy). State, local, and tribal interests were given the opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis process. Furthermore, the proposed action is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

CONTACT PERSON

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Date